

March 1, 2010

TO: Finance Committee

FM: Herbert L. Pike, Finance Director

**RE: ABAG Financial Support to the Bay Area Council Economic Institute—FY 10-11**

The Bay Area Council Economic Institute (BACEI), formerly Bay Area Economic Forum is a partnership of ABAG and the Bay Area Council (BAC). It was formed in 1988 as a public-private partnership of business, government, university, labor and community leaders to analyze and implement programs to strengthen the region's competitive economy and quality of life. ABAG currently appoints 1/3 of the BACEI Board members and provides a variety of other ongoing support to the BACEI's programs.

The BACEI obtains its funding from a variety of sources, including Bay Area Council, ABAG, grants, contracts and other fund-raising activities. ABAG has been providing financial support to BACEI over the past several years: \$100,000 in FY 2002-03, \$70,000 in FY 2003-04, \$60,000 in FY 04-05, and \$50,000 annually since FY 2005-06.

Attached is a summary of BACEI's major program activities for the past year as well as continuing and new program initiatives going forward.

**Staff Recommendation**

Continue to work with the BACEI staff and Board of Directors to analyze and implement programs to strengthen the region's economy and competitiveness. Staff is requesting authorization for the FY 2010-11 ABAG support to BACEI in the amount of \$50,000.

Attachment

**AGENDA ITEM 5**



## Bay Area Council Economic Institute

**T**he Bay Area Council Economic Institute is a public-private partnership of business, labor, government and higher education that works to support the vitality and competitiveness of California and the Bay Area economies. Its work builds on the twenty-year record of economic analysis and policy leadership of the Bay Area Economic Forum, which merged with the Bay Area Council in January 2008. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is a founder and key institutional partner. The Economic Institute also supports and manages the Bay Area Science and Innovation Consortium (BASIC), a partnership of Northern California's leading scientific research organizations.

Through its economic and policy research and partnerships, the Economic Institute addresses major issues impacting the competitiveness, economic development and quality of life of the region and the state, including infrastructure, globalization, science and technology, and governance. By providing fact-based economic analysis, and by convening leaders from diverse communities and sectors, the Institute provides the intellectual infrastructure for policy initiatives that impact the competitiveness of the state and regional economies. Recent Institute priorities have included: reforming California's electricity markets; using public-private partnerships to expand California's infrastructure; state budget reform; the design of California's international trade and investment programs; human capital; building bridges to key global partners such as China, Canada and India; advancing policies that support technology and business innovation; advancing the Bay Area's leadership in renewable energy technology; climate change; bringing new research funds and programs to the Bay Area; Federal stimulus funding; and economic education.

The Institute's Board of Trustees, which oversees the development of its products and initiatives, is composed of leaders representing business, labor, government, higher education, science and philanthropy.

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